

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 22, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. HALDEMAN

FROM: THE PRESIDENT

*✓*  
*drop Toner*  
The State Department Briefs are interesting, but they do not have enough priority to deserve my personal consideration.

I would suggest that they be discontinued and that whoever does them (and they are done well) be transferred to another Department.

*L/Co*  
*notify*  
*Harlow*  
The same goes for Bryce Harlow's daily report on Congressional Statements with regard to the Administration. This may be of some use to him, but I do not find it of enough use to me to have it prepared for my purposes. I think Bryce is so overwhelmed with work anyway that it would be just as well to discontinue this project unless he needs it for the purpose of keeping up with what is going on in Congress.

*✓*  
In any event, in the future do not send either of these reports to my office.

Some odds and ends on my scheduling:

*✓*  
It is not too likely that I will be playing golf very often. In any event, with the winter months coming on, I will ~~not be playing golf~~ be playing golf in Washington rarely, if at all. When I do play in Washington, I will be playing only at Burning Tree. Burning Tree is very proud of the fact that for over 50 years they have never allowed a photograph to be taken on the course. During the eight years that Eisenhower was President, there were many pictures of his playing golf, but never one at Burning Tree. Apparently this information was not available to Ziegler and Dwight because Dwight raised the point as to whether or not a couple of photographers could be allowed to take a shot of Hope, Laird and me before we teed off on Sunday. Simply inform all hands that this is a closed matter and that it is the decision of Burning Tree, and we, under no circumstances, want to change their policy. This,

Z-mo of photos

incidentally, will also be my policy whenever I play in the future. If I do play, I will generally go to clubs which do not allow photographs to be taken. Blindbrook in New York, incidentally, is one like this, and the same practice is also followed by Riviera in Florida. Where clubs do allow photographs, I will not play there. Also with regard to the golf routine, in the future will you instruct the Secret Service that I do not want any caddies; I prefer to play with a cart, without caddies, and that only one Secret Service cart traveling with me and everybody else out of sight.

Cide-  
Taylor

We have had a policy of Military Aides riding with me whenever I happened to be going some place alone. I want to discontinue this policy unless it is to a formal event. A man in uniform attracts attention to the car, and I think it is not a good idea unless it has been an advertised formal event, like an appearance at Congress or at some place where I'm supposed to make a speech. Have Chapin check with me before each event to see whether I want anybody to be riding with me, and explain the new policy to Hughes.

Hughes

I want you to make a survey of the White House staff to see whether we can implement Moynihan's recommendation that we cut the staff by a third. My feeling is that we had too few people at the beginning and now far too many. This is a natural development, but the time to cut out the fat is right now before people get a lot make-work projects which freeze them in. There is nothing worse than to have people on the staff without enough to do, because they are the ones who inevitably will begin to complain about not having "access". Give me a report on this within a couple of weeks as to how many we are able to cut. There should be no exceptions insofar as cuts are concerned, except with regard to Kissinger's operation (he needs everybody he can use to lessen his own burden) and Harlow's operation (he needs perhaps even one or two more to handle complaints that otherwise would land in my lap).

Staff  
cuts

When you are writing to Kalmbach, I think it would be a nice gesture if you were to suggest to Don Nixon that Clara Jane would be welcome to come down to San Clemente any time she wants and cut some of the flowers there for her personal use or for gifts to old friends. This is particularly true of the roses, and I imagine will also become true of some of the other plantings which were put in just before we arrived in California. Also, along that same line, would you remind Kalmbach

Kalmbach

that I would like for him to send two or three dozen figs (fresh) from our trees if it can be worked out without too much trouble. Don't do it if he believes they may not hold up in shipment (of course, they would have to be sent Air-Freight) or if there are other problems.

When I played golf with Tony Penna in Florida, he said that he was going to make up a set of clubs for me. My guess is that he has done so and, while I have no present need for them, I just want to be sure that he is thanked for them and that they are delivered here so that I can let certain VIPs use them, just as I let them use other sets that have been given to me. Would you check this out with BeBe or with the mail office here to see whether or not the clubs have been sent. If they have not been received, let BeBe make a discreet inquiry. I do not want Penna to think that we are asking for them, but ~~if~~ he was so positive about his decision to send them that my guess is that they are on the way. The way BeBe might check it is to simply tell Penna where I would like to have them sent.

Also, would you check with whoever is in charge with bread-and-butter letters to see whether there was a follow-through on thanking the man who made up a set of clubs for me and left them at Burning Tree with Max Elbin. He was here with the Ryder Cup team and at the time I asked Elbin if he had received a note of thanks, and he had not - probably because Elbin had not delivered the clubs to me until a couple of weeks ago. Please follow up and see that a very gracious note is sent to him, to the effect that I shall be "proud to play with such superb clubs, and I only hope my game eventually may approach the magnificent workmanship and style of the clubs."

Mrs. RN does not like the procedure we followed at the New Zealand dinner of standing at the door as guests go into the dining room. I am inclined to agree with her for reason which should have occurred to me earlier. While the most spectacular view is of the four people coming down the steps, the difficulty is that only eight or ten people at the most are able to see it. The press and the Marine Band blocked the view in front and, at the New Zealand dinner, there were only a half dozen people who ~~were at the bottom~~ caught us as we came down and made the turn at the second landing. I want her to make the decision as to how this receiving line should be set up. I think she prefers the East Room procedure and, if so, we will go forward with that. In any event, I would like the Guest of Honor to be invited for

Lucy  
H  
H  
Mrs

7:45 so that we can meet them at the door and get them upstairs so that the guests are not held up downstairs, and also so that we will be able to come down and start the receiving line ~~before 10 minutes after 8:00~~ by 8:05 or 8:10. At the Israeli dinner, have one Aide (Lucy Winchester or anyone else Mrs. RN chooses) for the purpose of bringing people up to her. Either you or Ehrlichman should bring people up to me. If there are very special people present, have three or four Military Aides available for the purpose of giving them a quick ~~run~~ 5-minute tour of the second floor. They can do this while we are shaking hands with the after-dinner guests. Also, let us be sure, because of the fact that the after-dinner guests this time will have within their numbers some fairly high-ranking people, that they are not invited too early and consequently have too long a time to wait before they come upstairs.

With regard to the reception we had for student government leaders, we dropped the ball on one point ~~where~~ which I would like for you to check very carefully in the future. You may recall that I raised with someone the question as to whether there were to be women's college representatives as well as men's. I did not find until we arrived back from Camp David that that was the case. Mrs. RN would have liked to have been there to receive them, and I think should have been. As it was we substituted Tricia for her. In the future, whenever both men and women are present at any kind of a reception that I have, I would like for her to be included unless she has something else scheduled at that time.

C?  
Houston?  
At the reception, a number of Negro students from Negro colleges raised the question about funds for their teachers and students, etc. They apparently felt there should be some sort of Federal aid. I have no idea as to what the status is, but we had no one at the affair to whom I could refer the matter. Would you have whoever was in charge check into it and see that Finch's office follows up if there is anything we can do on the subject.

Would you get for my file Gallup's popularity rating starting with Eisenhower and running through Kennedy and Johnson. I do not want trial heats with other people, but simply the popularity rating - do you approve or disapprove of how he is doing the job as President? If a major event (and only a very major event) has occurred immediately before one of these figures comes out, like the Cuban missile confrontation, or an off-year election, put that into the Summary -- don't go to too much trouble, however, I am more interested to see the trend lines over the eight-year period.

Bob Hope made a very strong plea for me to be an Honorary Chairman for the dinner he is having for the Eisenhower Memorial Hospital in Palm Desert, which is to be held in New York next month. This is a violation of our policy, just like the Eisenhower College one, but in this case, not because of the Eisenhower relationship, but because Bob Hope has been such a good friend, I will want to give him permission to use my name. If anybody raises a question on other requests of this type, we can always, of course, say that the only ~~acceptances we make are for~~ exception we make is for functions honoring Eisenhower.